

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 23-36 are pending in the above-referenced patent application and are presented for examination. The cancellation of the previous pending claims was not done for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claims or claimed embodiment, but rather to present new claims to an embodiment fully disclosed in the instant application as originally filed. In particular, support for the presently pending claims may be found beginning on page 6 of the specification.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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